



JIM BRIDGER

Bear River. After passing through the canyon leading from Cache Valley, he secured his boat to a shrub on the bank near the edge of the stream. Climbing on the southern rim of the canyon, he saw the present Bear River Valley. Also, in the distance, some twenty-five miles to the south, he got a view of a large body of water.

Returning to his boat, he floated downstream to where the river flowed into the Great Salt Lake. After examining its waters, he returned to Sublette's camp in Cache Valley and reported, "The Bear River flows into an arm of the Pacific Ocean. I tasted the water and found it to be very salty. It is surely ocean water."

At various times during the winter of 1824-1825, other trappers gazed upon the waters of the inland sea. Provot's men were massacred by the Indians in the Salt Lake Valley near Ogden City. But the fact that Bridger made his way down the Bear River in a boat, which would have had to be done before the stream froze over in the fall, indicates that Bridger reached the shores of the Great Salt Lake before Provot did.

After weighing all available evidence, it seems definite that James Bridger was the first white man that we positively know to have seen this inland sea.

#### TRAPPING IN UTAH, 1824-1825

After Bridger returned to Sublette's camp, the group continued trapping to their sources the canyon streams that flow into Cache Valley. The trappers finally settled into winter quarters, probably in some such sheltered place as the mouth of Logan Canyon or Black-



COLONEL BRIDGER.

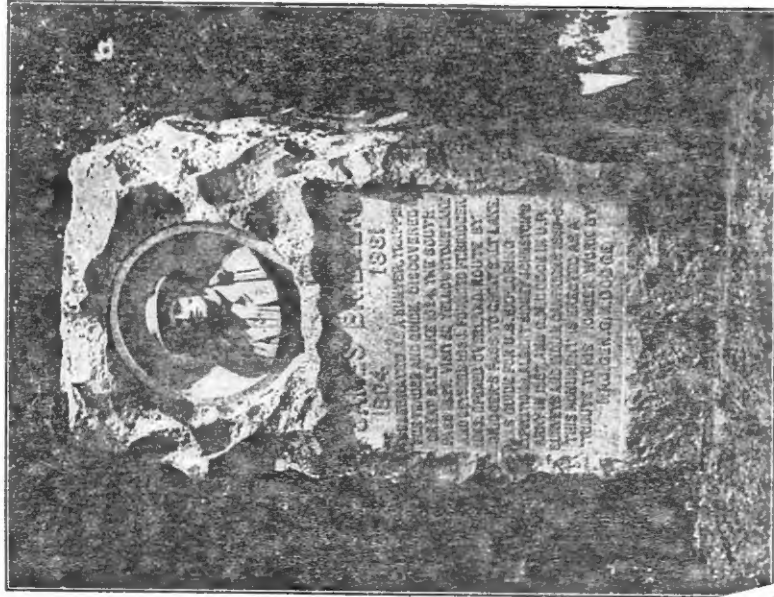
the famous Colonel Bridger. He warned them against settling in the Great Basin until it had been shown that grain could be raised there. "Mr. Young," said the Colonel, "I would give a thousand dollars if I knew an ear of corn could ripen in Salt Lake Valley." Major Moses Harris, another mountaineer, advised them to go to Cache Valley, where the land was more productive. Cache Valley was so named because the trappers cached their furs there, to hide them from the Indians. On Green River, Samuel Brannan rode into camp. He tried in vain to induce the Pioneers to join him in his colony on the Pacific Coast.



*Fur Trappers helped the Mormon Pioneers—telling them what they faced.*

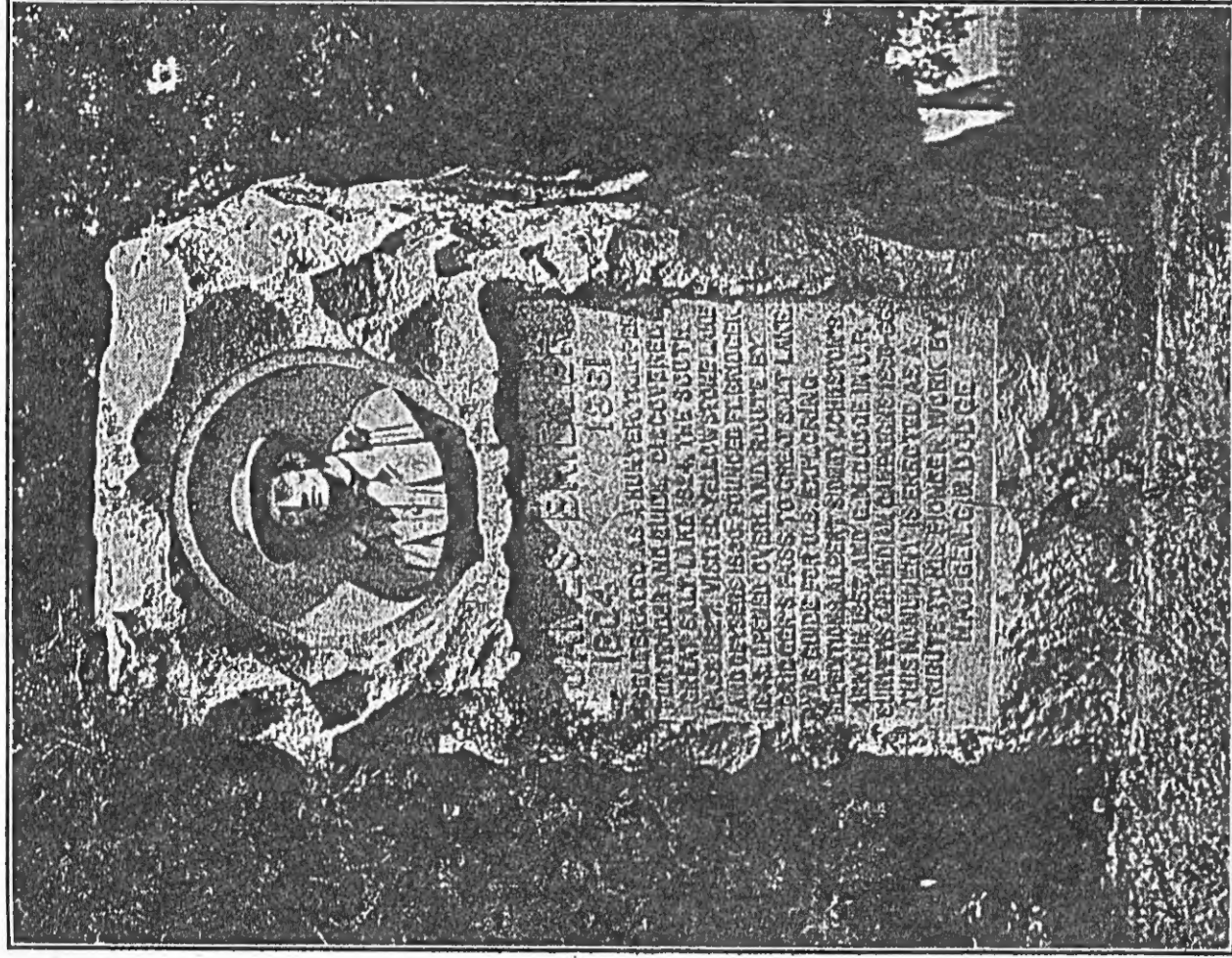
diah Smith, Etienne Provost, William Sublette, Ross Cox, William Henry, "Jim" Bridger, and Kit Carson.

In search of furs and adventure, these hardy explorers



Monument to James Bridger, Discoverer of Great Salt Lake

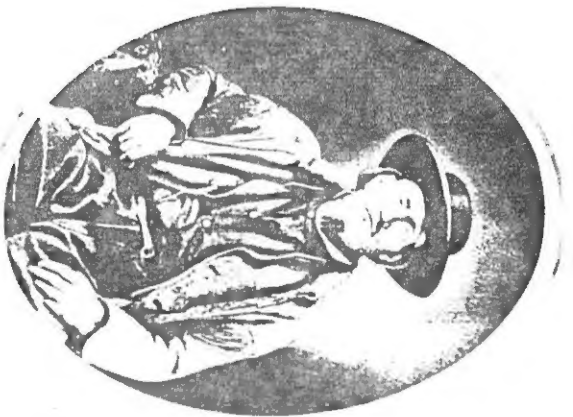
the Indian trails into the canyons of the Rocky  
as, and blazing new trails through the canyons,  
red the Uintals and the Wasatch. Floating their



Monument to James Bridger, Discoverer of Great Salt Lake

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James (Jim) Bridger

UTAH STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Kit Carson

Among the early trappers, guides and fort builders who traveled in the Utah area, were Bridger and Carson.

Scouts went ahead to  
ascertain best ways  
to go



Map of Western North America. Drawn in 1795

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Map of Western North America. Drawn in 1795  
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OMAHA, NEB.

Winter Quarters has long been relegated to the pages of history, but from 1846-48, thousands of refugee Mormons trudging across mid-America toward their promised land made their homes here.



A temporary visitors center is current-

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*Photo by Dell Van Orden*

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Brother Seely said the handcart group averaged about 20 miles a day. They traveled every day except Sunday. The usual routine was to be in bed by 10 p.m. after all the visitors had left. They would get up at 5 a.m. and be on the trail by 6 a.m. However on several days to avoid the

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*Photo by Dell Van Orden*  
Sculpture of pioneer parents burying their infant at Winter Quarters, created by Avard Fairbanks, captures sense of hardships from that era.